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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/504,998	02/15/2000	Yasuhiro Sato	NECF-17.054	8440

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EXAMINER

CHUNG, DAVID Y

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2871	5

DATE MAILED: 12/04/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/504,998	SATO, YASUHIRO
	Examiner David Chung	Art Unit 2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 November 2002.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-5 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagamura et al. (U.S. 6,292,239). Nagamura discloses a liquid crystal display and frame for use in a lap top computer. Note figures 8 and 9 showing cabinet 20 consisting of frame-shaped upper case 20T and plate-shaped lower case 20B, resin frame 3 with fastening portions 12a and 12b, and screws 40 for fixing projection 20F to the liquid crystal display panel containing frame 17 with liquid crystal panel unit 1 held therein. See column 12, line 40 – column 13, line 30. Although Nagamura et al. does not disclose a hinge member connecting the liquid crystal display to the main body of a lap top computer, this was common and conventional at the time of invention. Gushiken et al. (U.S. 5,844,774) discloses a conventional lap top computer housing structure. Note in figure 2, hinge mechanism 70 connecting the main body 32 to the display 33. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use a hinge mechanism to connect the liquid crystal display of Nagamura et al. to the main

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body of a lap top computer because it was a good way to allow the lap top to swivel shut.

2. Claims 11 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagamura et al. (U.S. 6,292,239). Note figures 8 and 9 showing cabinet 20 consisting of frame-shaped upper case 20T and plate-shaped lower case 20B, resin frame 3 with fastening portions 12a and 12b, and screws 40 for fixing projection 20F to the liquid crystal display panel containing frame 17 with liquid crystal panel unit 1 held therein. See column 12, line 40 – column 13, line 30. Although Nagamura et al. does not disclose a hook portion on the frame of the display for maintaining a closed state in a laptop computer, this was common and conventional at the time of invention. Gushiken et al. (U.S. 5,844,774) discloses a conventional lap top computer housing structure. Figure 1 of Gushiken et al. shows hook portions near the upper left and upper right corners of the display frame. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to provide a hook portion on the display frame of Nagamura et al. in order to maintain a closed state in a lap top computer because it was simple and cost effective.

3. Claim 12 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagamura et al. (U.S. 6,292,239). Nagamura discloses a liquid crystal display and frame for use in a lap top computer. Note figures 8 and 9 showing cabinet 20 consisting of frame-shaped upper case 20T and plate-shaped lower case 20B, resin frame 3 with fastening portions 12a and 12b, and screws 40 for fixing projection 20F to the liquid crystal display panel containing frame 17 with liquid crystal panel unit 1 held therein. See

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column 12, line 40 – column 13, line 30. Although Nagamura et al. does not disclose a hinge member connecting the liquid crystal display to the lap top main body, or a screw for fastening the hinge member, this was common and conventional at the time of invention. Gushiken et al. (U.S. 5,844,774) discloses a conventional lap top computer housing structure. Note in figure 2, hinge mechanism 70 connecting the main body 32 to the display 33 via screw 81. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use a hinge mechanism and screw to connect the liquid crystal display of Nagamura et al. to the main body of a lap top computer because it was secure and cost effective.

4. Claims 6-10 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagamura et al. (U.S. 6,292,239). Nagamura discloses a liquid crystal display and frame for use in a lap top computer. Note figures 8 and 9 showing cabinet 20 consisting of frame-shaped upper case 20T and plate-shaped lower case 20B, resin frame 3 with fastening portions 12a and 12b, and screws 40 for fixing projection 20F to the liquid crystal display panel containing frame 17 with liquid crystal panel unit 1 held therein. See column 12, line 40 – column 13, line 30. Although Nagamura et al. does not disclose a lap top cover or a hinge member connecting the liquid crystal display to the lap top main body, these elements were common and conventional at the time of invention. Gushiken et al. (U.S. 5,844,774) discloses a conventional lap top computer housing structure. Note in figure 2, hinge mechanism 70 connecting the main body 32 to the display 33. Note also housing 34 comprising walls 35a, 35b, 35c, 35d, and 35e. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to

use a hinge mechanism to connect the liquid crystal display of Nagamura et al. to the main body of a lap top computer because it was conventional. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to include a cover in a lap top computer with the display of Nagamura et al. in order to prevent collision damage.

5. Claims 13 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagamura et al. (U.S. 6,292,239). Nagamura discloses a liquid crystal display and frame for use in a lap top computer. Note figures 8 and 9 showing cabinet 20 consisting of frame-shaped upper case 20T and plate-shaped lower case 20B, resin frame 3 with fastening portions 12a and 12b, and screws 40 for fixing projection 20F to the liquid crystal display panel containing frame 17 with liquid crystal panel unit 1 held therein. See column 12, line 40 – column 13, line 30. Although Nagamura et al. does not disclose a hook portion on the frame of the display for maintaining a closed state in a laptop computer, this was common and conventional at the time of invention. Gushiken et al. (U.S. 5,844,774) discloses a conventional lap top computer housing structure. Figure 1 of Gushiken et al. shows hook portions near the upper left and upper right corners of the display frame. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to provide a hook portion on the display frame of Nagamura et al. in order to maintain a closed state in a laptop computer because it was simple and cost effective.

6. Claim 14 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagamura et al. (U.S. 6,292,239). Nagamura discloses a liquid crystal display and frame for use in

a lap top computer. Note figures 8 and 9 showing cabinet 20 consisting of frame-shaped upper case 20T and plate-shaped lower case 20B, resin frame 3 with fastening portions 12a and 12b, and screws 40 for fixing projection 20F to the liquid crystal display panel containing frame 17 with liquid crystal panel unit 1 held therein. See column 12, line 40 – column 13, line 30. Although Nagamura et al. does not disclose a hinge member connecting the liquid crystal display to the lap top main body, or a screw for fastening the hinge member, this was common and conventional at the time of invention. Gushiken et al. (U.S. 5,844,774) discloses a conventional lap top computer housing structure. Note in figure 2, hinge mechanism 70 connecting the main body 32 to the display 33 via screw 81. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use a hinge mechanism and screw to connect the liquid crystal display of Nagamura et al. to the main body of a lap top computer because it was secure and cost effective.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Chung whose telephone number is (703) 306-0155. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.


ROBERT H. KIM
SUPPLY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800